

## Message Text

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11

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IO-10 /071 W

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R 261103Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7739

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 2760

E O 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR CO

SUBJ LOPEZ SPEECH FOLLOWING SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF PANAMA

1. FOLLOWING HIS SIGNING OF THE "DECLARATION OF PANAMA".

COLOMBIAN PRES LOPEZ MICHELSEN DELIVERED A BRIEF SPEECH IN WHICH HE REFERRED TO SOLIDARITY WITH PANAMA IN ITS CANAL DEMANDS AS A NEW MILESTONE IN INTER AMERICAN RELATIONS AND UNDERLINED A CHANGED EMPHASIS IN RELATIONS WITH THE US.

2. AFTER PRAISING VENEZUELAN PRES PEREZ FOR HIS ROLE AS MEDIATOR IN THE PANAMA MTG AND LAUDING COSTA RICA FOR ITS INSTITUTIONAL CONTINUITY AND HISTORY OF CIVIL LIBERTY, LOPEZ CALLED ATTENTION TO PANAMA'S IMPORTANCE TO COLOMBIA AS A TRADING PARTNER AND NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR WITH WHOM RELATIONS GROW CONTINUALLY STRONGER. REFERRING TO PANAMA'S PROMISE TO GRANT SPECIAL CANAL RIGHTS TO COLOMBIA AND COSTA RICA, LOPEZ SAID THAT "COLOMBIA RECOGNIZES THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF PANAMA TO CONTRACT ANY KIND OF OBLIGATION WITH HER NEIGHBORS. FOR US IT IS MUCH MORE SATISFACTORY AND HONORABLE TO HAVE BENEFITS GRANTED BY AN AUTONOMOUS AND SOVEREIGN REP OF PANAMA THAN RECEIVE THEM FROM THE HANDS OF A FOREIGN POWER,

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ESPECIALLY ON THIS TERRITORY WHICH IS COMPLETELY PANAMANAN."

LOPEZ SAID THAT THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE PANAMA MTG HAVE ASKED OTHER LA GOVTS TO BACK PANAMA IN ITS CANAL DEMANDS.

3. POINTING TO THE SERIES OF INCONSISTENT US POLICIES TOWARD LA OVER THE YEARS I E "THE BIG STICK", THE "GOOD NEIGHBOR", ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS, NEW DIALOGUE, LOPEZ DECLARED THAT IT IS NOW TIME FOR LA TO "FORMULATE THE POLICY FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR NORTHERN NEIGHBOR AND LA...WE HAVE ENTERED THE ERA OF JOINT RESPONSIBILITIES: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE US TOWARD LA AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LA TOWARD THE US."

4. TEXT OF SPEECH BEING POUCHED TO ARA/NC.

5. COMMENT: LOPEZ SPEECH REFLECTS THE RECENT TREND IN COLOMBIA'S INTERNATIONAL POSTURE. THE CALL FOR UNITY WITH PANAMA AND EMPHASIS ON LA SOLIDARITY IS IN LINE WITH COLOMBIA'S TURN TOWARD A STRONGER REGIONAL LA ORIENTATION, AND LOPEZ POKES AT THE US ON THE CANAL ISSUE AND ON INTER AMERICAN POLICY FORMATION REFLECT COLOMBIA'S MOVING TOWARD A GREATER INDEPENDENCE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA. IN ALL HOWEVER THE SPEECH WAS NO MORE AND NO LESS THAN WHAT WAS TO BE EXPECTED FROM LOPEZ IN THE ROLE OF LA REGIONAL LEADER ON HIS FIRST INTERNATIONAL VENTURE. VAKY

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**TAGS:** PFOR, CO, US, (LOPEZ MICHELSEN, ALFONSO)  
**To:** STATE  
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